

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINSHA 04038 090732Z

12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

/046 W

----- 087114

R 081650Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7669

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 4038

USIA FOR IAA, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT PREPARATIONS

1. ENTOURAGE OF 12 AMERICANS CONCERNED WITH PROMOTION OF SEPTEMBER 25 ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT HAVE BEEN IN KINSHASA SINCE MAY 4 FOR SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS. DISCUSSION TOPICS RANGE FROM CLOSED CIRCUIT TV DETAILS TO REFURBISHING OF STADIUM, SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, STREAMLINING OF AIRPORT FORMALITIES AND MEANS OF ALLEVIATING WHAT APPEARS TO BE COLOSSAL SHORTAGE OF AVAILABLE LODGING FACILITIES.

2. GROUP IS MADE UP OF HANDLERS OF BOTH FIGHTERS, INCLUDING MANAGERS -- SADLER FOR FOREMAN AND HERBERT MUHAMMED, SON OF ELIJAH MUHAMMED, REPRESENTING ALI.

3. VIDEO TECHNIQUES, INC. OF N.Y., HANDLING CLOSED CIRCUIT TV COMMUNICATIONS, REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT BARRY BURNSTEIN, AND DON KING, WHO APPARENTLY IS HANDLING THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS WITH ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS. HEMDALE CORPORATION OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINSHA 04038 090732Z

N.Y. ALSO INVOLVED IN FIGHT PROMOTION, REPRESENTED

BY VICE PRESIDENT FRED SCHNEIER, BRITISHER JOHN DALY AND SEVERAL OTHERS.

4. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF MEETINGS AND VISITS TO STADIUM AND TRAINING FACILITIES, GROUP QUOTED IN PRESS AS BEING "VERY PLEASED" WITH SITUATION THUS FAR AND FURTHER STEPS PROMISED BY GOZ.

5. AT INVITATION OF SCHNEIER, BURNSTEIN AND DALY, USIS AIO SCHRAGER LUNCED WITH MEMBERS OF GROUP MAY 7. THEY REITERATED THEIR IMMENSE SATISFACTION WITH COOPERATION EXTENDED BY ZAIRIAN HOSTS THUS FAR.

6. SCHNEIER ASKED AIO WHAT EMBASSY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO. HE REPLIED THAT EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT EVERYTHING RUN SMOOTHLY AND WE PREPARED TO OFFER OUR SERVICES AND HELP WHEN APPROPRIATE TO ASSURE A FIRST CLASS EVENT. SCHNEIER EMPHASIZED HOW MUCH HE, FOR ONE, APPRECIATED THIS ATTITUDE AND INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS (UNSPECIFIED) IN CARACAS.

7. EMBASSY ANXIOUS TO AVOID PITFALLS WHICH COULD OCCUR IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN IMMENSELY COMPLEX UNDERTAKING FOR A COUNTRY WITH NO EXPERIENCE WHATSOEVER IN SUCH MATTERS. EMBASSY THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT DEPT OR EMBASSY CARACAS CAN SHED ON MATTERS SURROUNDING FOREMAN-NORTON FIGHT AND ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR OF PARTICIPANTS.

8. THOUGH EMBASSY HERE, INCLUDING USIS, PLANNING MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE THROUGHOUT ENTIRE AFFAIR, THEIR APPROACH TO USIS OFFICER INDICATES GROUP IS CONCERNED AND DESIROUS OF EMBASSY COOPERATION WHEREVER APPROPRIATE. USIS OFFICER EXPLAINED TO GROUP THAT EMBASSY WOULD ATTEMPT TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE AND BURNSTEIN AND SCHNEIER SAID THEY WOULD KEEP EMBASSY CONSTANTLY INFORMED, THROUGH USIS OFFICER, OF WHAT IS GOING ON.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KINSHA 04038 090732Z

9. SCHNEIER AND BURNSTEIN MENTIONED MAY 15 FIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE AT "METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART" (SIC) NEW YORK. APPARENTLY AS AN INDICATION OF GOOD FAITH, SCHNEIER ASKED USIS OFFICER IF HE SHOULD INVITE SOMEONE FROM DEPT TO ATTEND. USIS OFFICER REPLIED THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A NICE GESTURE AND HE WAS SURE IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

SCHNEIER DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF INVITING AMB-DESIGNATE DEANE HINTON, BUT USIS OFFICER INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH BARRING ANYTHING UNFORESEEN, HE EXPECTED HINTON WOULD BE IN KINSHASA FOR FIGHT, HE PERHAPS WOULD NOT WISH TO ATTEND PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE HE HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALY CONFIRMED. IN ANY EVENT, SCHNEIER SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW THROUGH. SHOULD DEPT DESIRE CONTACT HIM, SCHNEIER N.Y. PHONE IS 212/421-0922.

10. LOCAL PANAM REP GATT URGING HIS COMPANY PROTEST TO DEPT AND CAB DESIGNATION OF SWISSAIR AS OFFICIAL CARRIER FOR FIGHT. (PROMOTERS ESTIMATE SEVERAL THOUSAND

AMCITS WILL FLY TO KINSHASA FOR FIGHT). GATT SAYS HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO AIR ZAIRE FLYING CHARTERS TO US FOR EVENT BUT HE WILL OPPOSE SWISSAIR IN VIEW FACT PANAM PROVIDES DIRECT SERVICE.

11. ANY DEPT GUIDANCE AND CARACAS SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
NEWLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINSHA04038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740112-0971
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740565/aaaacgdi.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT PREPARATIONS
TAGS: SCUL, CG, SWISSAIR, AIR ZAIRE, PAA, (ALI, MOHAMMED), (FOREMAN, GEORGE)
To: STATE CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005